

UNCLASSIFIED

4/6/78

(S) 61

~~TOP SECRET~~

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 INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
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TELEGRAM

 E.O. 11652:
 TAGS:
 SUBJECT:

ACTION:

 FROM
 AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

 GDS
 SHUM, AR
 DISAPPEARANCE OF RELEASED PRISONERS

SECSTATE WASHDC

 AMB
 DCM
 POL3
 POL/R
 ECOM
 USIS
 CONS
 RF
 CHRON

[REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES

1. Argentine Human Right organizations have expressed concern to Embassy regarding the safety of released prisoners. The well-publicized disappearance in February of four prisoners who were released around midnight from La Plata prison has raised serious fears among prisoner families here. We have just learned of a similar disappearance which occurred in mid-March, also at La Plata prison.
2. According to report issued by the Argentine Permanent Assembly for Human Rights (APDH), a well-known Labor lawyer from Zarate, Buenos Aires Province, Dr. Juan Carlos Deghi, was released from La Plata prison at 2300 hours on March 20. His wife who had maintained a

 ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
 U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/PS
 Margaret P. Grafield, Director
 () Release (X) Excise () Deny
 Exemption(s):
 Declassify: (X) In Part () In Full
 (X) Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to
 Date 5/19/01 Declassify on Reason 25 X

DRAFTED BY: POL:FAHarris:gcr	DRAFTING DATE 4/6/78	TEL. EXT. 277	CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY: POL:WEHallman
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CLEARANCES:

DCM:MChaplin

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 [REDACTED]
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 LOT 81F93
 (7/7) 52/52

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vigil at the prison because of the previous released prisoner disappearances there met him at the prison gate. A short distance from the prison gate, both were abducted! Mrs. Deghi was released a short time later. Dr. Deghi's body was found in the streets of Zarate with several gunshot wounds on March 24. A forensic doctor estimated that he had been killed on March 21.

3. The Permanent Assembly, following a new policy of increased publicity, has filed "denuncias" with the Military Junta, Ministry of Justice and the First Army Corps Command pointing out the evident complicity between the prison authorities and the murderers of Dr. Deghi.

4. According to [] this issue has been discussed with the Ministry of Interior. MinInt Director of Security Colonel San Roman [] that instructions have been given to all federal penitentiaries that prisoner releases shall only be made during daylight hours. (Note: La Plata prison is administered by the Province of Buenos Aires, although it houses 795 political prisoners through a cooperative agreement with the Federal Government.

5. EMBASSY COMMENTS: These five documented prisoner release and disappearance cases and a number of other similar reports are having serious repercussions among the prisoner families and Human Rights organizations []

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[in Argentina. The first four La Plata disappearances]
have been reported widely in the Argentine press.
Charges of collusion between prison authorities and the
abductors are hard to deny when the prisoner releases
occur late at night. We believe that the GOA is concerned
about the adverse publicity generated by these cases.

CASTRO

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